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Wait worth it for St. Clair goaltender

BY JIM WHYMER
TIMES HERALD
• FEBRUARY 2, 2010

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Chipper Gauss waited two years before making his high school [hockey](#) debut.

The wait was worth it for the talented goaltender and the St. Clair Saints.

"The best thing about Chipper is he gives us a chance to win every night out," St. Clair Coach Scott Nichols said. "He is very athletic and determined."

Gauss, who played AAA travel hockey the past three years, turned in strong performances back to back nights for the Saints.



Chipper Gauss



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In a 2-1 victory Friday night against once-beaten Port Huron High, Gauss made 24 saves. He came back with a 22-save effort Saturday in a 4-2 triumph against Utica.

For his performance, Gauss is the Times Herald Athlete of the Week.

Gauss is 8-8 on the season with one [shutout](#). He has a 2.60 goals against average and a .925 save percentage.

"Chipper is our hardest worker on the ice, at practice and off the ice," Nichols said. "He conditions himself to be a better player."

The 5-foot-10, 160-pounder rotated in net for Detroit Victory Honda as a Bantam and Midget player.

"I was looking to become more consistent as a player and that wasn't happening the past couple of years," Gauss said. "I played spring hockey with the players from St. Clair and fit in with them. I also played with an all-star team from the (Macomb Area Conference) in the fall and did well playing against AAA teams.

"I'm happy with my decision to play high school hockey. I'm playing every game, which is as much as I was playing the past couple of years when I was rotating with another [goalie](#)."

Gauss is hoping the Saints continue to improve and stay hot with the state playoffs coming later this month.

"The win against Port Huron was big," Gauss said. "That's a game we really wanted to win.

"We're playing very well as a team right now."

Gauss said he ran cross country in the past but is concentrating on hockey year round.

He has been invited to a spring league with Compuware and to a summer camp with the Indiana Ice of the United States

Hockey League.

Contact Jim Whymer at (810) 989-6267 or jwhymer@gannett.com. View his blog at

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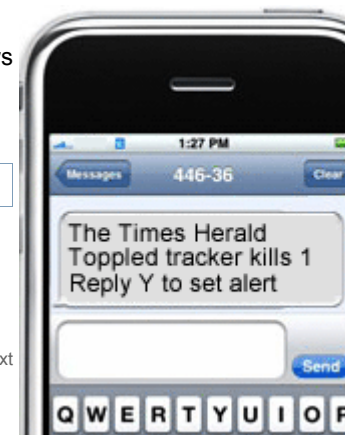
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